

King County Mobility Coalition

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 4060

In attendance

Members/Alternates: Stacey Devenney, Elmer Elegado, Jackie Engler-Morris, Sylvia Furstenberg, David Gestaut, Ref Lindmark, Lynn Moody, Scott Ninneman, Eileen Rasnack, Alex O'Reilly (Co-Chair), Bob Sahm (Co-Chair), Unique Saunders, Allison Scott, George Smith, Irene Stewart, Ruth Tolmasoff, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart.
Guests: Alina Aaron, Heidi Hall, Sheila Sloan-Evans.
Staff: Michelle Zeidman.

Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Bob Sahm and Alex O'Reilly welcomed the group. Everyone introduced themselves and shared brief announcements.

New Introductions:

- Sheila Sloan-Evans is the new Travel Training Programs Manager for Hopelink's mobility management team.
- Irene Stewart is a human services planner with Seattle-King County Aging and Disability Services, and is the new alternate for their seat. Angela Miyamoto is stepping down.
- Unique Saunders is the Outreach Coordinator at the Central Area Motivation Program, and is the new alternate for their seat. David Gestaut is stepping down.

Announcements:

- Irene Stewart shared that Pam Piering has retired as Director of Aging and Disability Services. Rosemary Cunningham is the current acting director.
- Jackie Engler-Morris announced with pleasure that the proposed \$20 congestion reduction charge was approved by the King County Council, thereby reducing cuts to Metro bus service. Ref Lindmark thanked Coalition members for participating in the congestion reduction charge process and noted that it did make a difference. It also shared that some of the provisions in this legislation will impact our constituencies and create an opportunity to better meet some of their needs.
- Alina Aaron announced that Hopelink was awarded funding to staff subregional mobility coalitions in North and South King County. Alina will be staffing these groups in addition to the Eastside Easy Ride Collaborative.
- Michelle Zeidman announced that Sheila Sloan-Evans will be taking over management of Hopelink's travel training programs, and will be launching a new group excursion program called Ride Around the Sound for low-income individuals, veterans and people with limited English proficiency.
- Bob Sahm noted that Mary Pat Lawlor's role at the Puget Sound Regional Council is changing and there will be a new staff person for special needs transportation issues.

- Lynn Moody shared that funding for the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation ended in June. However, it is continuing to meet on an ad hoc basis and the pilot projects developed through its Federal Opportunities Workgroup will continue. This includes a pilot project in King County between Metro Transit and Medicaid.
- Bob Sahm participated on the Transit Cooperative Research Program's panel to select research topics for its next funding cycle. One of the proposed research topics was looking at the impacts of non-emergency medical transportation on public transit.
- Allison Scott shared that the Maple Valley Community Center is starting a new transportation program next month, with funding from WSDOT.

Recognition for Ruth Tolmasoff

On behalf of the King County Mobility Coalition, Alex O'Reilly recognized Ruth Tolmasoff for her 20+ years of service at Mt. Si Senior Center. Ruth was a founding member of Key Partners, the predecessor to the KCMC, and has been a long-term supporter of special needs transportation. She is master of coordinating funding from multiple sources including federal, state, country, tribal and rural funders. Ruth has an entrepreneurial spirit that we all admire. Her dedication to coordinated transportation was exemplified by her participation in the Eastside Transportation Action Planning Workshop this week, despite the fact that she is retiring in two weeks. She will be missed on the Coalition and we wish her the best in her retirement.

Ruth thanked all the agencies and individuals who have partnered with her over the years.

Consent Calendar

New Members and Alternates: the Coalition appointed the following members and alternates:

- Rosemary Cunningham (member) and Irene Stewart (alternate), City of Seattle Aging & Disability Services
- Elmer Delgado as alternate for Gaby Bell, Harborview Medical Center (representing hospitals)
- Scott Ninneman as alternate for Linda Wells, King County Dept. of Community & Human Services
- Unique Saunders as alternate for Andrea Caupain, Center Area Motivation Program (representing nonprofit human services agencies serving low-income clients)

May 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes: the Coalition approved the meeting minutes as written.

Charter Amendments

The Coalition reviewed its charter and discussed the section regarding Coalition Co-Chairs. The group agreed that having two co-chairs from different sectors (public, private, nonprofit) or fields (transportation, human services) is not as important as well-qualified, active co-chairs.

- ✓ Decision: the Coalition approved a charter amendment to strike the last sentence of the section "III. Coalition Co-Chairs," which states, "Co-chairs cannot represent the same constituency in one term."

Mobility Manager Update

Michelle Zeidman provided an update on the Life in Motion project and thanked all members for helping to recruit riders for the project.

Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC) Update

- Alex O'Reilly shared that EERC hosted a successful transportation action planning workshop in Issaquah on August 15. The group developed an action plan with four priority areas and related working groups.
- Alina Aaron also noted that the EERC has a new website: www.eastsideeasyrider.org

North King County Mobility Coalition (NKCMC) Update

- George Smith shared the NKCMC is currently digesting the results of its needs assessment survey sent to 10,000 North King County residents. The Coalition's next step is to develop an action plan.
- George also noted that there is a new Hyde Shuttle van that is operating between Northwest Seattle and Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Hyde Shuttle service areas.

Immigrant & Refugee Elders Transportation Project

- Cindy Zwart briefed the Coalition on the progress made on this project since May. Based on the findings from 9 community conversations hosted in the spring, four common themes around transportation access were identified: (1) lack of travel knowledge, (2) language barriers, (3) financial limitations, and (4) the importance of community organizations as a source of information for immigrants and refugees. On July 27, the Coalition hosted a Transportation Summit attended by 66 individuals representing transportation providers, planners, funders, peers elders, and community organizations working with immigrants and refugees. Kevin Desmond, General Manager for KC Metro Transit, provided the welcome and Bob Johnson, Seattle Director for the International Rescue Committee, briefed the group on the challenges immigrants and refugees face.
- Cindy Zwart noted that we still have \$13,000 left in the grant to implement strategies this fall. Some short-term projects may include in-person trainings via a partnership between the travel training programs in King County; the creation of transportation instructional videos in multiple languages; and the development of a communication card for people with limited English proficiency who ride the bus.

ADS Caregiver Support Program

Irene Stewart briefed the Coalition on this program which supports unpaid caregivers over age 18 who care for adults 18+ with disabilities. The program provides a helpline and has one-time extra funding. Irene shared brochures on the program and asked for help getting the word out.

Legislative Affairs

- Bob Sahm launched this discussion by noting that it is important to make special needs transportation issues and concerns known to our legislators, even in bad funding times. He noted that a workgroup at the EERC action planning workshop will be looking at options for a more stable and sustainable funding sources for transit and special needs transportation.
- Ref Lindmark noted that the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation isn't funded in the current state budget and that we should let our legislators know that local coordination efforts are more effective with state support. He also shared that state support for mobility management is important and that we should talk about what we can

accomplish locally with the mobility management program. Ref also suggested sharing a list of Coalition accomplishments when we speak with our legislators.

- George Smith noted cuts to transit in Pierce and Snohomish County. He asked if the Agency Council on Coordinated Transit or another group would be monitoring the impact of transit cuts on the special needs population, and that this information could help us get stable funding for special needs transportation.
- Bob Sahm and Lynn Moody suggested that this type of monitoring could be accomplished through a partnership between the Washington State Transit Association (WSTA) and the Community Transportation Association of the Northwest (CTANW).
- Dorene Cornwell offered to ask the faith community for stories about the impact of cuts to Sunday transit service on their parishioners.
- Ref Lindmark noted that the City of Seattle is moving forward with a ballot initiative to fund a system better than fixed-route in Seattle. He suggested that this could be an opportunity to create stability and leverage nonprofit providers in filling gaps.
- Bob Sahm also noted we should make sure our legislators know that there is funding for special needs transportation in the federal budget.

State & Regional Grant Announcements

Michelle Zeidman shared a summary of the projects in King County that were funded in the most recent state and regional grants cycle. *See handout.* In total over \$4.2 million in funds were granted to King County programs for federal fiscal years 2011-2013.

Grant sponsors shared how their grant awards will be spent:

- Ref Lindmark announced that his JARC funding will support three programs: (1) expanding partnerships to transport clients to job training, (2) expanding vanpool programs for low-wage workers, and (3) funding InMotion transportation demand management programs in areas with transportation disruptions.
- Allison Scott - Maple Valley Community Center's new Southeast Regional Shuttle will cover 100 square miles around Maple Valley and will link riders to two major transit lines. Service will be provided by one van, Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.
- Ref Lindmark noted that Neighborhood House is working with South Seattle Community College and Metro's JARC program (which will cover the cost of driver and training) as a pathway to employment for drivers.
- Ruth Tolmasoff shared that Mt. Si Senior Center's dial-a-ride general public service operates from North Bend to Monroe, from 7am-8pm, Monday-Friday, with six buses in the Snoqualmie Valley and provides feeder-to-fixed route service connecting to Metro. They are concerned about transit reductions in rural areas. For the first time, local cities and the tribe are showing increased interest in working together to expand transportation in area. Specifically they are looking to expand service to weekends and evenings.
- Cindy Zwart explained that Senior Services' Hyde Shuttle started in 1997 and now has 28 vans (driven by paid and volunteer drivers). This service includes transport to nutrition/meal sites and community shuttles that operate within a single neighborhood. The latest grant adds new community shuttles in Queen Anne/Magnolia and Renton. Cindy clarified that the vans are lift-equipped.
- Cindy Zwart - Senior Services' volunteer transportation program, which takes seniors to medical appointments, now includes American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program

and reimburses mileage for Pierce and Snohomish County residents who travel to King County for medical appointments. Senior Services' program is partnering with the Arc of King County's 360-degree navigator program to provide mileage reimbursement to help meet the needs of its clients. Cindy clarified that volunteer drivers can transport people if they can self-transfer and their wheelchair is lightweight and foldable.

- Hopelink's mobility management expansion grant provide staffing for new subregional coalitions in North and South King County, expands the Getting Around Puget Sound program, and will fund a new transit excursions program called Ride Around the Sound.
- Hopelink's capital grant will pilot transportation information kiosks (computers) at UWMC, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Children's Hospital and Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. The interactive kiosks will provide information about transportation options, including transit trip planner, real-time transit arrival data, and allow users to make online trip requests for Hopelink and perhaps Access, Senior Services and other providers in the future. Lynn Moody clarified this pilot project could expand to other facilities (medical and otherwise) during the next funding cycle. Irene Stewart noted that she has relationships with hospitals in South King County that might want to partner. Dorene Cornwell suggested that language line services be included in this project.

Alex O'Reilly concluded this discussion by reminding members to note this grant funding when they talk to legislators about the influence of the King County Mobility Coalition.

Life in Motion Project: Screening & Strategy

Michelle Zeidman gave a brief history of this project, thanked members for recruiting riders to tell their stories, distributed the books (PDF available: www.kingcounty.gov/mobilitycoalition), and showed the videos (available online at: www.youtube.com/user/kcmobilitycoalition).

Members shared ideas for spreading the word about this project:

- Working with United Way to help distribute the books.
- Asking other providers and cities to "favorite" the videos on their YouTube Channels, and/or post on their Facebook pages.
- Airing on BellevueTV, Seattle Channel, TVW, and other city channels.
- Distributing to Seattle and King County Public Libraries and community centers.
- Screening the video during transportation volunteer trainings and for employees of transportation providers. The videos were screened for drivers and customer service representatives of DART and Hopelink's transportation brokerage.
- Have KCMC members to distribute the book at City Council, Human Service Commission, and Transportation Commission meetings (during public comment period).

Next Steps

- **Next meeting: Tuesday, October 18 from 9am-11am.**
- Meeting locations for 2012 will rotate throughout the county. Locations will be on transit routes and offer accessible meeting spaces.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>